

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 27, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:


We are writing with an urgent request that the EPA work immediately with oil refiners serving Wisconsin to avoid spikes in the retail price of gasoline this spring. As you are aware, motorists here have been forced to pay exorbitantly high prices the past two summers for summer blend reformulated gasoline.

Supply chain disruptions, capacity constraints, and refiners' business decisions have, in recent years, compromised the industry's ability to deliver summer grade reformulated gasoline to Wisconsin and Illinois markets. These wholesale supply chain glitches have translated into dramatic price spikes at the pump, which put the squeeze on my constituents and compromise Wisconsin's economy. And as you know, public reaction to such price spikes inevitably prompts criticism of the reformulated gasoline program.

We are aware of recent EPA initiatives on blendstock accounting, but these measures alone may not be enough to avoid supply problems. EPA must work in partnership with Midwestern refiners right now, before problems arise, to ensure that refiners are ready to make the transition and that systems have been put in place to ensure that chance supply disruptions do not result in price spikes that hurt consumers and businesses.

The interests of both environmental protection and economic growth would be served by acting now to prevent supply glitches that could otherwise produce price spikes. Thank you for your time and your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Barrett  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Kieciska  
Member of Congress